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FURNISHING MAIL LOCKS AND KEYS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

March 14, 1851.

T being desirable to substitute locks and keys of some other kind for those now in use for the mail service of the United States, specimen locks and keys, with proposals to furnish the same, will be received and considered at the Post Office Department until the first day of July next. The different locks will be submitted to a commission for examination and report. Upon this report, contracts will, as soon as practicable, be entered into for furnishing such looks and keys for four years, with the right on the part of the Postmaster General, for the time being, to extend and continue the contract in force for an additional term of four years, by giving to the contractor written notice to that effect, not more than nine nor less than six months before the termination of the first term of four years.

With a view of procuring the best lock at the lowest price, no kind of lock is prescribed as a standard, the Department relying for a selection on the mechanical skill and ingenuity which a fair competition, now invited, may develop. It is, however, proper to state that a lock suitable for the mail service should possess the following qualities, vis: durability, uniformity, lightness, and strength.

For the purpose of displacing simultaneously all the mail locks and keys now in use, about thirty thousand new locks and twenty thousand keysadapted thersto will be required to be furnished by the contractor within seven months after the contract shall have been entered into; afterwards the annual supply will depend on the durability of the locks and keys adopted, as well as the in-FURNISHING MAIL LOCKS AND KEYS.

new locks and twenty thousand keysadapted thereto will be required to be furnished by the contractor within seven months after the contract shall have been entered into; afterwards the annual supply will depend on the durability of the locks and keys adopted, as well as the increase of the mail service; but it will probably never exceed in amount three thousand of the former and one thousand of the latter.

No lock will be considered if it be like any already in general use; nor will any one with whom the contract may be made be allowed to make, sell, or furnish, any lock or key similar to those contracted for for any other purpose or use than that of the Post Office Department.

The kind of lock adopted must be patented, and the patentee will be required, on entering into contract, to make an assignment of his patent for the exclusive use and benefit of the Department, if the Postmaster General shall deem such requirement essential to the interests of the service. In case of the failure of the contractor at any time to fulfil faithfully the terms and conditions of his contract, the Postmaster General shall have the right, besides a resort to the penal remedy hereinafter mentioned, to annul said contract, and to contract anew with any other party or parties as he may see fit, for furnishing similar locks and keys.

In deciding upon the proposals and specimens offered, the Postmaster General may deem, it expedient to select for the through mails the lock of one bidder, and for the way mails that of another. He reserves, therefore, the right of contracting with different individuals for such different kinds of locks as he may select, and also the right to reject all the specimens and proposals, if he shall deem that course for the interest of the Department. The party or parties contracting will be required to give bond, with ample security, in the sum of thirty thousand dollars, for a faithful performance of the contract. The contract is contain provisions for the de and proper inspection of the locks and keys,

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Established, July, 1839.

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Assilant, 20th July, 1849.

Dear Sir: I wish to express to you she gratification I
Magazine and Commercial Review, from viewing your
portrait in the beginning, and from reading your address
to your friends at the end of it. When we feel under obingations to those who have contributed to our information and amusement, we are naturally desirous to possess
all the knowledge of them, of their appearance, of the features of their countenance, and of the character and habits of their mind, which we can acquire. You have placed
your numerous readers (at least you have me, if I may
not speak for them) under those obligations; and the,
number of your valuable work new before me, in some
degree, satisfies the desire to which I have allusted.

I have become quite familiar with the Magazine and
Review, and have no hesitation in expressing my humble
opinion that it is aminently entitled to the public regard
and support. It collects and arranges, in good order, a large
amount of valuable statistical and other information,
highly useful not only to the merchant, but to the statesman, to the cultivator of the earth, to the manufacturer,
to the mariner, in short, to all classes of the business and
reading community.

Entertaining this opinion, I am glad that it has been, and
hope that it may continue to be, liberally patronized.

Offering you cordial assurances of my esteem and reger, I a

Latter from the Hon. Thomas H. Benton.

Washington Citt, April 20, 1849.

Mr. Freeman Hunt.—Sir: I owe you many thanks for the opportunities I have had to read the Merchants' Magazine, and have found it in reality to be a magazine, and that well replenished, of all the useful matter which the title would imply, and presented with a fullness and clearness which delights while it instructs. It is, in fact, a merchants' magazine in the large acceptation of the term—merchants who go between nations, whose large operations bring many departments of knowledge, and a view of the state of the world, into daily requisition. But it is not the great merchant only, but the one of more modest, but, nevestheless, of most useful operations—the merchant of the interior also—who will find this magazine to abound with the information the pursuit of his business and the elevation of the mercantile character requires. Nor is its utility at all confined to merchants, but extends to the legislator and diplomatist, and to all who are charged with managing the affairs of the nation. For myself, I have found it most useful to me in my sensorial labors, and have been in the habit for many years of carefully consulting it.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

Letter from Hen. Wm. H. Seward. Letter from the Hon. Thomas H. Benton.

Letter from Hon. Wm. H. Seward.

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ment.

I am, with great respect, your humble servant,
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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

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any time avail themselves of her invaluable aid and coun-el.

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All communications for medical advice should be addressed either to S. M. Davis, M. D., or to George W. Davi M. D., 239 Main street, Buffalo, N. Y.

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